Approved For Release 2006/10/31 : CIA-RDP80M00165A001900090002-4

DDA 77-5917

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

Executive Registry
77-2929

OCT 31 1977

MEMORANDUM TO THE HEADS OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (P.L. 94-135), which becomes effective on January 1, 1979, prohibits "unreasonable" discrimination on the basis of age in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. This Department is required to draft the general implementing regulation by May 28, 1978.

It would be helpful to us in drafting the regulation to know as much as possible about programs throughout the Federal Government in which age is a consideration. I would therefore appreciate your conducting a review of the programs administered by your agency to distinguish between those requirements based on age that have a rational and defensible connection to program purposes and those that you believe lack such connection. I have directed that similar efforts be undertaken for all HEW programs. I hope that these reviews can be completed by the end of this year.

It is our intention to circulate a draft of the regulation well in advance of the statutory deadline. David Tatel, the Director of HEW's Office for Civil Rights will be responsible for the development of these regulations, and it would be very helpful if you would designate a person in your agency with whom he and his staff can relate as they proceed with this task. Mr. Tatel can be reached at 245-6403.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Joseph A. Califano Jr.

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